

MRS. WILLIAM ASTOR DEAD

LONG A LEADER OF THE SOCIAL
LIFE OF NEW YORK.

Gave Her First Great Ball More Than 30
Years Ago—Of Late Years Had Been
Seen But Little—Mother of Five
Children, of Whom Three Are Living.

Mrs. William Astor died at 7:30 o'clock
last night at her home, 542 Fifth avenue.
During the day her condition became more
critical and her physicians administered
oxygen frequently without avail.

At Mrs. Astor's bedside when she died
were her daughter, Mrs. M. Orme Wilson;
her three physicians, Dr. Austin Flint,
Jr., Dr. John S. Billings, Jr., and Dr. J. H.
Nagle and a nurse. Her son, Col. John
Jacob Astor, and his wife had been with
Mrs. Astor most of the day, but had gone
to their home a short time before her
death for a few moments rest.

Mrs. Astor was unconscious most of the
time yesterday, and her death, due to a
heart affection accompanying old age,
was so peaceful as to be scarcely per-
ceptible to those at her bedside. Her
physicians had hardly expected that she
would survive the night in view of the
failure of the oxygen to revive her. Her
son, Col. John Jacob Astor, and her
daughter, Mrs. M. Orme Wilson, were
summoned to the house immediately and
word was sent at once to the home of Mrs.
Astor's granddaughter, Mrs. J. Laurens
Van Alen, at Newport, but Mrs. Van Alen
was already on her way to New York.

Mrs. Astor's second daughter, Mrs. J.
Ogilvy Haig, is also on her way here from
London, but is not expected to reach here
in time for the funeral. No plans had been
made for the funeral last night.

For the last two days the members of
Mrs. Astor's immediate family have known
that there was no hope for her. Her old
heart affection, which had troubled her
for two years, returned about a month
ago, and on Thursday morning Mrs. Astor
lapsed into unconsciousness.

Dr. Austin Flint, Jr., who had been
attending her through all her illness, then
called Drs. Billings and Nagle into con-
sultation, and on Wednesday one of the
three physicians was with her con-
stantly. All day yesterday the three
physicians were continually at her bed-
side.

Mrs. Astor gave her last ball in 1904
and since that time she had even discon-
tinued the large dinners of which she
yearly gave three or four. She had been
for more than a year in her house on
Fifth avenue and had received nobody
but her physician and her daughter,
Mrs. Wilson. Even her son was not
admitted to her apartments. The only
signs of life about her house since April
came from the windows of her room.
There were occasionally in her behalf
of the nurses employed in her house.

She manifested for several years before
her death a disinclination to be seen in a
full light by the public. For two years
before her death she did not attend the
opera, but that time the box num-
ber 7, which she shared with her son, had
always attracted more attention than any
other in the theatre.

It was always Mrs. Astor who gave the
signal as to the proper time to leave the
opera house. This time, it might be
added, bore no relation to the stage to
which the opera had advanced, but was
selected because it happened to suit the
matron.

It is more than thirty years since Mrs.
Caroline Astor, then Mrs. William Astor,
gave the first of the large entertainments
that have come to be known popularly
of late years as "Mrs. Astor's ball." From
the day of that first big ball Mrs. Astor
had been the acknowledged social leader
and arbiter of New York and Newport
society, and never did a ruler hold the
reins of Government so tautly and with so
little evident effort as she. If Mrs. Astor
invited you were "in," and if she
didn't you were "out."

Mrs. Astor's maiden name was Caroline
Webster Schermerhorn, and she was born
on September 22, 1830. Her parents were
Abraham Schermerhorn, a well known
New York lawyer, and Helen (White)
Schermerhorn. The family is descended
from Jacob Janse Schermerhorn, one of
the first settlers of New Netherlands, who
came to New York on the ship Van Ren-
selaerwyck in 1638.

Jacob Janse Schermerhorn's descend-
ants married into the Van der Bogarts,
Beekmans, Ten Eycks, Van Burens and
other Dutch pioneer families. Mrs.
Astor's mother, Helen White, was a
descendant of the Yonkers branch of
the Van Cortlandt family. Mrs. Astor's
cousin, William G. Schermerhorn, lived
for many years in the old Schermerhorn
mansion at 49 West Twenty-third street,
long after the business houses had been
hastened the northward flight of his neigh-
bors. Another brother married Miss
Bayard of Delaware. Mrs. Charles Suss-
dam was a sister of Mrs. Astor.

Caroline Schermerhorn became Mrs.
Astor in 1853, when she was married to
William Astor, a grandson of the first
John Jacob Astor. Her husband, who was
also born in 1830, died in 1892, leaving
besides his widow four children. One of
these, Mrs. James Roosevelt Roosevelt,
who was Helen Astor, the second born,
died the following year, 1893. Mrs.
James J. Van Alen, who was the first
child born to Mrs. Astor, died in 1881.

Just what the qualities were that gave
Mrs. Astor her social preeminence are
hard to define. By right of birth and
fortune, although she was not supposed
to be especially wealthy as fortune-tellers
in those days, her social position was of
course early assured. But those that
had heard of her power to make or unmake
the climber at will expected to meet a
woman who perhaps was dictatorial or at
least given to self-assertion and "push."
Mrs. Astor and none of these qualities.

She was methodical and simple. When
she breakfasted with her secretary, Miss
Simrock, there was none of the famous
monogram Astor plate on the table, but
instead a set of plain, old-fashioned white
china with its feet cream-colored. A mat-
ron less sure of herself would have sent
that china "below stairs." Mrs. Astor
could afford to be simple.

Also that breakfast hour, 8 o'clock, was
another instance of her regularity. Even
on the morning after one of the big dances
she gave each year the breakfast also
began at 8 o'clock. Her day followed
with like regularity. At 9:30 she had
always finished her favorite morning
taper, and, unlike most women, the edi-

KILLED BY FIRE IN HER BED

FOUL PLAY, THE FAMILY SAY
—POLICE THINK IT SUICIDE.

Mrs. Andrew Cooke, Who Had a Broken
Leg, Burned in Flatbed Home While
Husband and Friends Were Down-
stairs—Bed Had Been Oil Soaked.

Henrietta Cooke, wife of Andrew Cooke,
a retired milk dealer and brother of
Abraham Cooke, formerly vice-president
of the Williamsburg Savings Bank, was
burned to death in her bed at her home
at 1141 East Thirty-seventh street, Flat-
bush, late yesterday afternoon.

The death of Mrs. Cooke is surrounded
by some mystery and has caused a clash
between the family and the authorities.
The family and the doctor who attended
Mrs. Cooke are positive that she met her
death through foul play, while the police
and the coroner said last night that they
believed that Mrs. Cooke probably com-
mitted suicide.

The house in which the Cookes live is a
detached cottage with a yard, and it has
several times been visited by burglars, as
the Cookes are known in the neighbor-
hood as wealthy people, but the family
asserts the idea that a burglar figured in
the present case. They decline, however,
to make known their suspicions beyond
saying that Mrs. Cooke did not commit
suicide.

According to the story told to the police
by the family, Miss Maude Cooke, Mrs.
Cooke's daughter, came to Manhattan
to shop yesterday and asked Mrs. Mar-
garet Maher of 433 Graham avenue to
look after her mother while she was out.
Mrs. Cooke had fallen down stairs and
broken her leg six weeks ago and had been
under the care of Dr. William Pettit of
1325 East Thirty-seventh street since that
time.

About the middle of the afternoon
Julia Fischer, a friend of Mrs. Cooke,
came in, and with Mrs. Cooke they all
had tea in Mrs. Cooke's bedroom on the
second floor. At that time, according
to Mrs. Maher, Mrs. Cooke was in good
spirits. After tea they all left Mrs.
Cooke and went downstairs to the rear
yard and the kitchen.

A little before 4 o'clock, Mrs. Maher
said, they all noticed an odor of some-
thing burning but paid no attention
to it at the time and did not until Maude
Cooke came home about 5 o'clock and
went upstairs to see where it came from.
The persons downstairs heard the
daughter scream and ran to her assist-
ance. Mrs. Cooke was on the bed, which
was a mass of flame. They got her off
the bed and threw the mattresses out
of the window. Mrs. Cooke's body was
terribly burned and her legs were prac-
tically lost.

Dr. Pettit, who was sent for immedi-
ately, saw that Mrs. Cooke was dead, so
he at once notified the police and the Cor-
oner. This action was taken from what
the doctor had seen at once—that the fire
evidently had been started from an oil
stove which had stood near the bed, but
which Mrs. Maher said last night was
when the party went downstairs.

Near the bed there lay the little crew
top to the stove which is taken off when
oil is poured into it. This seemed peculiar
to Dr. Pettit. He and the family agree
with the police in saying that they then
found that the mattress was soaked in
oil, but there the theories differ, as the
police at once declared the death a
suicide.

"I do not think it was a suicide for several
reasons," said Dr. Pettit last night. "In
the first place no one heard Mrs. Cooke
scream, and no person on earth could burn
as she did without some cry of agony had
there been no foul play. Again, the po-
sition of her body on the bed was natural
and therefore the only conclusion to ar-
rive at is that she was dead before she was
burned at all. Again, there were no blis-
ters on her body, as would be the case had
she been burned while alive. Mrs. Cooke
would easily have been able to get out of
bed had the bedclothes merely caught fire,
as she was perfectly well, barring the
broken leg, which was fast healing."

In spite of Mrs. Maher's statement that
Mrs. Cooke was cheerful when they all
left the room in the afternoon Mr. Cooke
declared that his wife was in agony and
could not have moved from her bed.
After a questioning by the police it was
learned last night from those who had
been in Mrs. Cooke's room in the after-
noon that they all heard a noise on the
roof and thought that it was a burglar
and went up to see, but could see no one.
Both the doctor and police scout the
burglar idea, however, as they say a bur-
glar could not have got into the house
without being seen by those outside.

Mrs. Cooke said last night that there was
no trouble of any kind between his wife
and any member of the family and that
all had lived in perfect harmony.

"It is simply impossible that this could
have been a case of suicide," he said.
"The very way things were found and from
what the doctor has already stated shows
that it was no suicide, but beyond that
I can give no solution."

It was learned last night that Dr. Pettit
had signed the death certificate as due to
suicide by burning, and he was asked
about it.

"I signed such a certificate, as I did not
think it was my duty or right as a doctor
to certify to anything else. Anything fur-
ther is a matter for the coroner,
it seems to me."

TO TEST THE SUFFRAGETTES.
Mock Election Will Be Held in Cleveland's
Public Square on Tuesday.

CLEVELAND, Oct. 30.—In an effort to
show that women want to vote and to
disprove the general opinion that the fair
sex does not care for politics the Political
Equality League of this city will put a
voting booth in the public square here
and all women will be asked to vote for
their favorite on election day.

The booth will be in charge of Mrs.
Lucius Webster, Miss Dorothy Butts and
Mrs. W. G. Rose. The booth will be open
during the usual voting hours and the
results will be announced publicly. Al-
ready several hundred women have writ-
ten to the league declaring their inten-
tion to avail themselves of the oppor-
tunity to cast their first ballots.

BALLOON UP IN A GALE.

William Van Sleet and a Passenger
Travel 40 Miles in 30 Minutes.

NORTH ADAMS, Mass., Oct. 30.—In a gale
this afternoon William Van Sleet of New
York with M. Menard of Pittsfield as a
passenger made a daring ascension in the
balloon Greylock.

Thirty minutes from the time the bal-
loon started upward she landed without
 mishap in Whately, Conn., which is forty
miles in a direct line from this city. The
rate at which the Greylock was driven
was eighty miles an hour, which is the
fastest a balloon has ever travelled with
passengers on board, according to Mr.
Van Sleet.

Twenty men held the Greylock until
all preparations had been made and the
aeronaut stepped into the basket. At
the word every one let go and the Grey-
lock shot into the air and sped to the
southeast before the force of the north-
west gale. She moved at express speed
and did not rise very high.

Mr. Van Sleet emptied one of his two
bags of sand in an effort to rise higher,
but with unsatisfactory results and he
decided to try to make a landing. The
trial rope was thrown over after the trip
cord had been pulled and as the Greylock
nearly the earth the anchor caught in a
pine tree but ripped its way out.

After the anchor had dragged through
a grove without getting a "bite" it finally
caught its flukes in a stone wall half a
mile away and the balloon came to the
ground with somewhat of a jolt.

Both Mr. Van Sleet and Mr. Menard got
out without injury.

GEN. CORBIN ON HAIN'S LETTERS.

Says One Fool Woman Can Make More
Army Trouble Than All the Men.

CINCINNATI, Oct. 30.—Gen. H. C. Cor-
bin, who was at the Hotel Clinton to-day,
said in discussing the Hains case that
"one fool woman can make more trouble
in an army post than all the officers and
men. But Mrs. Hains says the letters
are forgeries," he added quickly.

"Such things as are described as occur-
ring at Fort Hamilton never were in my
time in the army, and I left it only a
year and a half ago," said the General.
"It seems incredible that such things
could happen, particularly at Fort Ham-
ilton, right under the eye of the Inspec-
tor-General, right under the shadow of
department headquarters. Right under the
nose of the municipal police."

"But one fool woman can make more
trouble in an army post than all the men.
We can control the latter, but we cannot
control the woman. There were several
such cases in my time, and we had to
get rid of the officers in order to get rid
of the women."

"I had one such case out in the Phil-
ippines, and I had to pursue the only
course open to me. 'It is my wife's fault,'
said the officer when before me. 'No
doubt; but we can't control her and you
can't control her, but we can control
you,' I replied, and he resigned."

"This Hains case is distressing. I
understand that the marriage was un-
happy all the way through. But those
letters—they don't seem as letters natural
for a wife to write to her husband. They
look more like letters manufactured for
the purpose of creating sympathy and
perhaps furnishing a possible incentive
to insanity, temporary or otherwise."

FLAGPOLE KILLED BOY.

Knocked From School Roof by High Wind,
He Watched It Until It Struck Him.

Edward McCarton, the twelve-year-
old son of a policeman attached to the
Trenton avenue precinct and living at
1078 Tinton avenue, The Bronx, was killed
by a flagpole which fell from the roof
of the Morris High School in the high wind
yesterday. Young McCarton with boy
chums was on his way to St. Augustine's
School. The boys were passing near the
Morris High School at 16th street near
Clinton avenue when a gust of wind
caught the thirty-five foot pole of wind
and snapped it.

For a few seconds the halyards held the
pole and then it came down. The other
boys ran when they heard the pole snap,
but McCarton stood and watched it come
down on him. An American flag was
attached to the pole and when it reached
the ground McCarton was hidden from
sight.

The force of the pole lifted matches
in McCarton's pocket and the flag caught
fire. Bystanders quickly put out the fire
and lifted the boy from under the pole.
He was taken to Lebonon Hospital, where
he died a few minutes after he got there.

CONVICTS AND THE BALLOT.

Grand Jury Urges a Change in the Law
Forbidding Them to Vote.

The October Grand Jury, which was
discharged yesterday by Judge Warren
W. Foster of General Sessions, made a
presentment which said:

"We recommend that the State Legis-
lature at its next session amend the
present election laws so that the dis-
qualification to register or to vote for
or at a general, special or primary elec-
tion by reason of a prior conviction of
a felony should apply only to such cases
as the Court in imposing sentence shall
deem the offense so serious and grave
as to warrant the commitment of the
offender to a State prison."

"We further recommend that when a
convict is discharged from any institu-
tion where he has served a term for felony
the authorities be instructed to inform
him in writing that unless pardoned
or his citizenship be restored he is not
permitted either to register or to vote
at any election under penalty of further
punishment if convicted."

**SHIP TALKS WIRELESS TO SAN FRANCISCO AND
HONOLULU AT ONCE.**

SEATTLE, Wash., Oct. 30.—The steam-
ship Lurline of the Matson Navigation
Company talked to Honolulu and San
Francisco, at the same time when 1,400
miles out of San Francisco yesterday.

This is the first time in the history of
wireless that a steamer has been in com-
munication with both points at the same
time.

WARRANTS FOR MEN WHO REGISTERED FROM RACETRACK STABLES.

County Judge Dike of Brooklyn, sitting as
a committing magistrate, issued warrants
last night for the arrest of several persons
in the Sixteenth Assembly district of
King's county for registering from various
buildings and stables belonging to the
Coney Island Jockey Club. The warrants
were issued on the complaint of Super-
intendent of Elections William Leary.

PRINCETON-WEST POINT FOOTBALL GAME
Set for Oct. 31. West Point R. R. special
leaves Princeton at 12:30 and West 22.30. 12:30
P. M. R. R. round trip. —Ad.

REFORMED BY AN OPERATION

SURGEON CHANGES DRUNKEN
THIEF INTO MODEL MAN.

Brain Pressure Was Relieved Nearly Two
Years Ago—Patient's Habits Steady
Ever Since—Promoted by Employers
Who Had Previously Discharged Him.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 30.—Surgery as a
cure for moral degeneracy has had a
remarkable demonstration in this city
through an operation performed by Dr.
Herbert L. Northrop, dean of Hahnemann
College.

By a simple operation on the head, re-
moving pressure on the brain, caused by
an injury, Dr. Northrop changed a man
from a drunkard and a thief to an honest,
industrious man respected by his em-
ployers.

The patient declares that his desire
to drink and steal has disappeared.
For twenty-two months he has lived an
upright life, and during that time he
had been promoted twice by the company
employing him. Previous to the opera-
tion he drank a quart of whiskey a day,
unable to keep a job because of his habits.

The case has just been made public
by Dr. Northrop. The operation was
performed twenty-two months ago. It
was not announced earlier because Dr.
Northrop wanted to be sure that the
operation was successful.

The main facts set forth in the history
of the case in Dr. Northrop's words are
as follows:

"A man, 45 years old, had been a man
of good habits. He was devoted to his
wife and children and occupied a posi-
tion of trust. He earned a good salary
and was well thought of by his company.
He never drank alcohol in any form."

In May, 1891, a timber struck him in
the head, causing a contusion of the scalp
and a hematoma in the upper frontal
region close to the middle line on the
right side. He was unconscious for about
sixty seconds and was then driven home
in a cab.

"He returned to his position and re-
mained there for twelve years, when he
was discharged for drunkenness and mis-
use of the company's funds. For several
years of his twelve years period these
bad habits were developing until he
reached the stage where he got drunk
frequently and stayed away from home
for many days at a time."

"His accounts were frequently audited
and always found correct, but his trick-
ery was to have enough worthless or bogus
checks in the drawer to cover the amount
which he had withdrawn and spent, on sev-
eral occasions amounting to \$3,000 or
\$4,000."

"To quote his own words, given me after
his operation: 'I looked upon money and the spending
of it as a thing which I was not responsible
for. I spent it right and left. I might
say threw it away, and because I helped myself
to that which belonged to the company.'

"And yet, I did not think I was doing
anything wrong. I felt that everything
would come out all right. I felt happy
and contented. My chief pleasure was
in spending money on lots of foolish
things and in drinking whiskey."

"His accident had no effect on his mem-
ory. His mind was every bit as clear
afterward, and he could perform just as
much mental labor and do it just as easily
as he could before the accident. The
patient himself summed up the effects
of his head injury when he said he had
all of his faculties except his sense of
normal responsibility."

"On January 18, 1907, I mapped out the
basins of Rolando upon the right side
of the skull, and the lower and middle thirds
of the ascending frontal and adjacent
frontal convolutions by means of a tre-
phine and Rongeur forceps."

"I did not find any depressed bone or
peculiarity of the osseous wall at the
point. The dura, however, was adherent
to the inner plate of the skull, and all
three meninges were glued together.
The cerebral cortex appeared normal."

"I broke up the adhesions between the
dura, on the one hand, and the arachnoid
and pia on the other, stitched the flap
of the dura tightly in place and closed
the wound in the scalp."

"The patient recovered from the opera-
tion and was discharged from the hos-
pital two weeks later."

"The result of this operation, up to the
present time, has been satisfactory in
every respect. The patient is now de-
voted to his wife and children, has drunk
no whiskey, and says the thought of
taking a drink never enters his mind."

"Two months after his operation he
returned to the employ of the same com-
pany for which he worked before his
downfall; has been promoted twice, with
an increase of pay."

"The history of this case impresses me
with this fact—the undoubted direct
effect of the head injury on this man's
moral character."

TAKE AUTO UP WITH BALLOON.

Big Gas Bag Also Carries Two Men and
Send Ballast.

INDIANAPOLIS, Oct. 30.—Carl G. Fisher,
with G. L. Bumbrough as operator, left
here this afternoon in an automobile
attached to a balloon. The start was
made under good conditions and the
balloon sailed away with the two men
in the automobile underneath.

The automobile was stripped of the
tonneau, fenders and other parts that
are immaterial in the running of the ma-
chine. The aeronauts sat on the steering
wheel seat and the several hundred pounds
of sand which they distributed about
the automobile will be used as ballast.

The balloon holds 110,000 cubic feet
of gas and is the largest ever constructed,
according to Bumbrough, the maker,
who owns a balloon factory in Springfield,
Ill.

The balloon went in a southerly direc-
tion seven miles and reached an altitude
of 2,800 feet, but there was no wind and
it made slow progress.

The landing was made in an open field
about eight miles south of the city. The
balloon was folded up and placed in the
auto and the two men returned to the
city, having been absent about two hours.

RULE

HENRI HUDSON FOOTBALL SPECIAL
Left for Princeton, Oct. 31. See Day Line advi-
—Ad.

KERN LETS HIS ANGER RISE.

Wants Voters to Rise in Their Wrath
and Knock Employers Down.

INDIANAPOLIS, Oct. 30.—John W. Kern
closed his tour of the State to-day and in
his final speeches departed radically from
the mild temperance utterances that he has
made throughout the campaign. At
Mecca he referred to the alleged attempts
to frighten the laboring people and at
Terre Haute thus emphasized his Mecca
speech:

"At Mecca, in Palmer county, to-day,
I pointed out that the voter is the sov-
ereign in this land and that any man's vote
is as good as that of the richest man. I
advised that if any employer attempted
intimidation to knock him down and the
great Democratic party would stand by him."

DEPENDS ON TAFT'S ELECTION.

Pittsburg-Buffalo Coal Co. to Spend
\$1,000,000 if He Wins.

PITTSBURGH, Oct. 30.—If Taft is elected
the Pittsburg-Buffalo Coal Company will
spend \$1,000,000 on the new town of
Marianna. John H. Jones, president
of the company, made the announcement
this evening.

Marianna is a new coal town in the
Monongahela district which was planned
before the recent panic. It was then
announced that the town would be the
biggest coal town in the world. The
work of making it so has been delayed
by the hard times, but Mr. Jones de-
clared this evening that if Taft is elected
contracts will be awarded before Novem-
ber 15 amounting to \$1,000,000. If Bryan
is elected these contracts will be delayed
until the company is aware of what policies
will be carried out by Bryan.

WITNESS HAD OPERA GLASSES

When She Saw Policeman Commit an
Assault, She Said.

Policeman Frank X. Werner of the
West Thirty-seventh street station was
tried at Headquarters yesterday on a
charge of assaulting John Ryan of 500
West Fortieth street, and one of the
principal witnesses against him was
Mrs. Mary Whitney. Mrs. Whitney lived
on the seventh floor of 219 West Thir-
ty-fourth street, and the assault was said
to have been committed on the sidewalk
in front of the house.

After she had described how she saw
the policeman beat Ryan Werner asked
her where she was standing.

"I was sitting at my window and saw
it all," she answered.

"There was a big crowd around me and
Ryan was drunk and resisting arrest,"
said Werner. "You say you saw me
assault this man and you were at the
window on the seventh floor? Impos-
sible!"

"Oh, no—not impossible," the witness
said. "I had a pair of opera glasses and
saw everything that went on."

Commissioner Hanson smiled and re-
served decision.

BURTON WON'T ATTACK CANNON.

Though He Will Not Deny That He Would
Like to Be Speaker.

CLEVELAND, Oct. 30.—Asked to-day at
a noon meeting of business men at which
he was speaking what he thought of his
chances to succeed Mr. Cannon as
Speaker of the House, Congressman
Burton said: "I would not deny that I
would like the job, but I will not gain
it by an attack upon Mr. Cannon, publicly
or otherwise."

EXCISE RAID AT GOTHAM.

Policemen Arrest Walter at Hotel Which
Has No License to Sell Liquor.

"Don't walk so flat footed, they'll take
you for a bull," said the taller of the two,
he with a red mustache, fiercely to the
other.